**The American Consulate General in Jerusalem Announces**
**The 2016 TechWomen Program**

The American Consulate General in Jerusalem and the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) is pleased to announce TechWomen 2016, a professional exchange program to support women from the Middle East, Africa and Central Asia who are engaged in technology. TechWomen is designed to support development in the field of technology in participating countries, and to enable women to reach their full potential in the technology industry through five-week mentorships with American women at leading innovation companies and organizations in the United States. Inaugurated by former Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton in 2011, TechWomen provides a unique opportunity to women from Africa, Central Asia and the Middle East to gain firsthand experience in America's tech industry.

TechWomen brings emerging women leaders and entrepreneurs working in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) from the Middle East, Africa and Central Asia together with their counterparts in the United States for a professional mentorship and exchange program, beginning in October 2016. TechWomen connects and supports the next generation of women leaders in STEM fields by providing them access and opportunity to advance their careers and pursue their dreams. During the five-week program, participants engage in project-based mentorships at leading companies in Silicon Valley, participate in workshops and networking events throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, and travel to Washington, D.C. for targeted meetings and special events to conclude the program. For more information please visit: http://www.techwomen.org/

Participant Qualifications
- Candidates must be Palestinian residents of Jerusalem, the West Bank, or Gaza Strip.
- Be a woman with a minimum of two years full-time professional experience in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields and/or a career requiring significant expertise/knowledge/application of technology;
- Have a university degree;
- Be proficient in written and spoken English;
- Demonstrate a willingness to participate in exchange programs, welcome opportunities for mentoring and new partnership development, and exhibit confidence and maturity;
- Not have applied for an immigrant visa to the United States, or participated in a visa lottery in the past five years;
- Have a proven record of voluntary or public service in their communities;
- Have a demonstrated track record of entrepreneurialism and commitment to innovation.

**Important Note:**
- Participation in the program is contingent upon the applicant qualifying for a J-1 visa to the United States.
- Holders of American passports or green cards are **not eligible to participate** in this program.

**Application Deadline and inquiries:**
The application is available online and will be open until February 1, 2016. The TechWomen website can be found at: **www.techwomen.org**.

**For More Information:**

**Jerusalem and West Bank Applicants:** For more information call 02-622-7107 or email jerusalemexchanges@state.gov.
**Gaza Applicants:** For more information please contact 0599-677317 or email Gazaexchanges@gmail.com.